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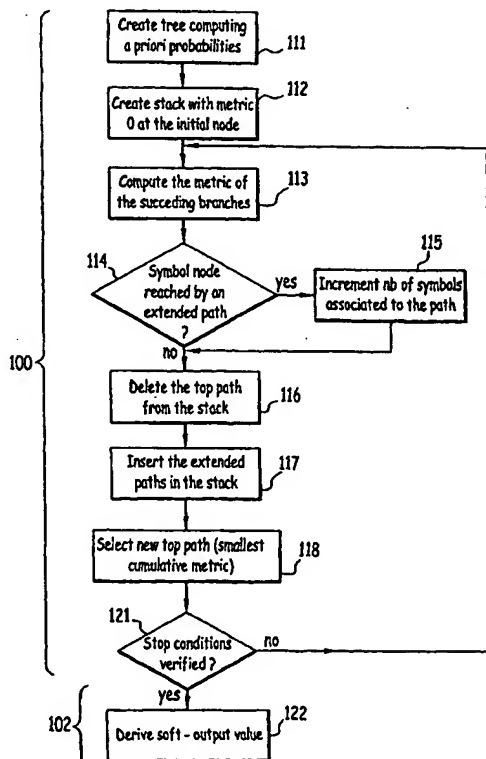
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(54) Title: METHOD AND DEVICE FOR SOURCE DECODING A VARIABLE-LENGTH SOFT-INPUT CODEWORDS SEQUENCE



(57) Abstract: The invention concerns a method for source decoding a variable-length soft-input codewords sequence ( $y[1:T]$ ) into a soft-output bit sequence ( $L_v[1:T]$ ), the variable-length soft-input input codewords sequence ( $y[1:T]$ ) encoded in accordance with a VLC codewords table. It comprises- a first stage (100) of implementing a stack decoding algorithm for a sequential estimation of an hard-output bit sequence of said variable length soft-input codewords sequence, including storage of intermediate data contained in the stack and generated by the stack decoding algorithm; and- a second subsequent stage (102) of post-processing the stored intermediate data for generating the soft-output bit sequence ( $L_v[1:T]$ ), a soft-output ( $L(x[t])$ ) being provided for each bit.